



RESPONSE TO ASSERTION THAT MESA WATER DISTRICT ACTIONS ARE CONSISTENT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS OF 2014-2015 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT, “OC LAFCO: IT’S TIME TO REDRAW THE LINES”

Mesa Water District officials are telling you that they are simply following through on the recommendations of the Orange County Grand Jury. However, the recommendations made by the Grand Jury were in fact focused on the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), the neutral agency that reviews and approves consolidations, dissolutions, mergers and annexations. LAFCO responded to the Grand Jury recommendations and made the following points:

- LAFCO has approved many consolidations, dissolutions, mergers and annexations, such as:
 - Dissolution of the Carpenter Irrigation District and its annexation to Irvine Ranch Water District
 - Consolidation of Tri-Cities Municipal Water District with Coastal Municipal Water District
 - Merger of Capistrano Valley Water District and City of San Juan Capistrano Water District
 - Reorganization of four special districts into what became South Coast Water District
- LAFCO uses a process known as Municipal Service Reviews, or MSR’s, to look at future growth and “...how agencies are planning to deliver public services in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.”
- MSR’s are a “stakeholder-driven” process designed to both identify potential opportunities for more efficient delivery of government services and to help the public better understand the operational infrastructures and services of the County, cities and special districts.
- The MSR process involves **ALL** stakeholders and is driven by the most recent and accurate data to compile its recommendations.
- OC LAFCO is preparing to initiate its next cycle of MSR’s, with Mesa Water District scheduled for its review in 2018.
- Contrary to the MSR process undertaken by LAFCO, which is an independent and impartial government body, Mesa Water District hired its own contractor to prepare a (flawed) analysis of a potential consolidation with Costa Mesa Sanitary District (CMSD), and is now using that analysis as the basis for a public advisory vote despite the numerous misstatements and inaccuracies cited by CMSD.
- Since any potential consolidation would require a thorough and costly review by LAFCO staff, followed by a vote of its Commissioners on any recommendation, why is Mesa Water District rushing forward to a public vote, especially with information that is incorrect?

To review LAFCO’s response to the OC Grand Jury, please go to CMSD’s website and click on the “Media” page to find the link.